

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-25. **(Canceled)**

26. **(Currently Amended)** A trackable object comprising:

an elongated body having a first end and a second end and a first width;

a tongue extending from the second end of said body, said tongue having a second width smaller than the first width so as to form a shoulder where said tongue extends from the second end of said body; and

an electronic memory device attached to said tongue.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The trackable object of claim 1 26, wherein said electronic memory device includes an electronic identification code stored therein.

28. **(Currently Amended)** The trackable object of claim 1 26, wherein said electronic memory device includes an electronic memory.

29. **(Currently Amended)** The trackable object of claim 1 26, wherein said tongue is elongated and extends from a proximal end adjacent the second end of the elongated body to a distal end.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The trackable object of claim 29, wherein said tongue tapers from said proximal end to said distal end.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The trackable object of claim 1 26, wherein said electronic device is attached to the distal end of said tongue.

32. **(Currently Amended)** The trackable object of claim 1 26, further comprising an attachment mechanism on said body for securing items thereto.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The trackable object of claim 32, wherein said attachment mechanism is located at the first end of said elongated body.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The trackable object of claim 32, wherein said attachment mechanism comprises an aperture.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The trackable object of claim 34, wherein said attachment mechanism further comprises a rivet mounted in said aperture.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The trackable object of claim ~~1~~ 26, said tongue defined by a first face and a second face, wherein said electronic device protrudes from said first face.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The trackable object of claim 36, wherein said electronic device is substantially flush with said second face.

38. **(Currently Amended)** The trackable object of claim ~~1~~ 26, said tongue defined by a first face and a second face, wherein said electronic device protrudes substantially from said first face and minimally from said second face.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The trackable object of claim ~~1~~ 26, wherein said elongated body tapers at said first end.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The trackable object of claim 39, further comprising an attachment mechanism located adjacent said taper at said first end.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The trackable object of claim ~~1~~ 26, wherein said elongated body is formed of a non-conducting material.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The trackable object of claim ~~1~~ 26, wherein said elongated body is formed of plastic.

43. **(Previously Presented)** A trackable object comprising:

an elongated body having a first end and a second end and a first width, wherein a shoulder is defined at said second end;

a tongue extending from the shoulder, wherein said tongue is elongated and extends from a proximal end adjacent the shoulder to a distal end and wherein said tongue tapers from said proximal end to said distal end;

an electronic memory device attached to said distal end of said tongue, said electronic memory device having an electronic identification code stored therein; and

an attachment mechanism located on said body at a position removed from said electronic memory device,

wherein said tongue is defined by a first face and a second face and said electronic device protrudes from said first face.

44. (Previously Presented) An object control and tracking system comprising:

a plurality of trackable objects, each trackable object comprising:

an elongated body having a first end and a second end and a first width;

a tongue extending from the second end of said body, said tongue having a second width smaller than the first width so as to form a shoulder where said tongue extends from the second end of said body; and

an electronic device attached to said tongue and storing an identification code,

a storage unit having a panel with an array of receptacles defined on said panel, each receptacle sized to receive the tongue of said trackable object, such that when a trackable object is seated in a receptacle, the tongue extends through said receptacle and said shoulder of said trackable object abuts said panel;

an electronic circuit associated with each receptacle, said electronic circuit being configured and located adjacent a receptacle to read the identification code of an electronic device when a trackable object is seated in said receptacle; and

a computer controller coupled to said electronic circuit.

45. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 44, wherein said electronic circuit comprises a set of contacts in said storage unit, said contacts being configured and located to engage an electronic device on a trackable object when said trackable object is seated in a receptacle, and wherein said computer controller is programmed to read the identification code of said electronic device engaged by said contacts.

46. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 44, wherein each of said receptacles comprises an elongated slot substantially the shape of the tongue with a wider aperture portion provided along one side of said slot to permit the electronic device to pass therethrough.